

POODLE HEALTH REGISTRY HISTORY



In 1990, Susan Fleisher's 21 month old female standard poodle, George, was euthanized as the result of juvenile renal dysplasia, an inherited kidney disease. In addition to standard poodles, more than 20 breeds of dogs are afflicted with this fatal genetic disorder. Despite the number of breeds affected, there was very little information to assist Susan in her difficult struggle with George's disease. Lack of knowledge about maintaining a dog with kidney disease led Susan to dedicate herself to research on this topic, consult with experts, and create the Kidney Disease in Dogs website. Other websites followed and now Susan is recognized as a leading authority and resource on diagnosis, diet and treatment of canine kidney disease of many types. Her articles are quoted and referenced throughout the canine health community.

Susan's passion for the health of the standard poodle came after George's death and from talking to the many heart broken people she encountered. It also came from the realization that many of the problems could have been avoided. Susan and several friends, all fans or breeders of poodles, were concerned about the continuing lack of readily available information about dogs affected with known or suspected genetic diseases. Various websites have registries of single diseases. The Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) has a registry of ten diseases, but registers all breeds of dogs and not all ten diseases apply to poodles. There are more poodle diseases than OFA lists which have a known or suspected genetic component. However, there has been no single registry where not only all these diseases of the three poodle varieties were listed, but also contained a registry of afflicted dogs. Thus was born the Poodle Health Registry.

The Poodle Health Registry is an incorporated non-profit organization with a Board of Directors, workers and researchers to insure the information about diseases and registrations is as complete, accurate and up to date as possible.

The goal of the Poodle Health Registry is to be the #1 resource for health information about poodles. It is a resource for owners, breeders and veterinarians not only for information about a specific dog or his relatives, but also for links to research and information about the diseases themselves. As an additional goal, PHR hopes, through compilation and analysis of sufficient data, to be able to assist the veterinary profession in identifying the modes of inheritance for various genetic diseases.

Susan will soon be turning over the maintenance and updating of the kidney websites to veterinarians at noted universities. Her work in the development of the Poodle Health Registry continues. Susan and her standard poodle service dogs, Electra, age 15, and Cricket, age 2, live in the San Francisco Bay area.

We hope your visit to the Poodle Health Registry is informative and helpful. If you have a dog with one of the listed diseases, we ask that you help the poodle community by registering your dog with PHR. If you have suggestions of a disease to add to the list or ways to improve the utility of this website, please contact the webmaster.